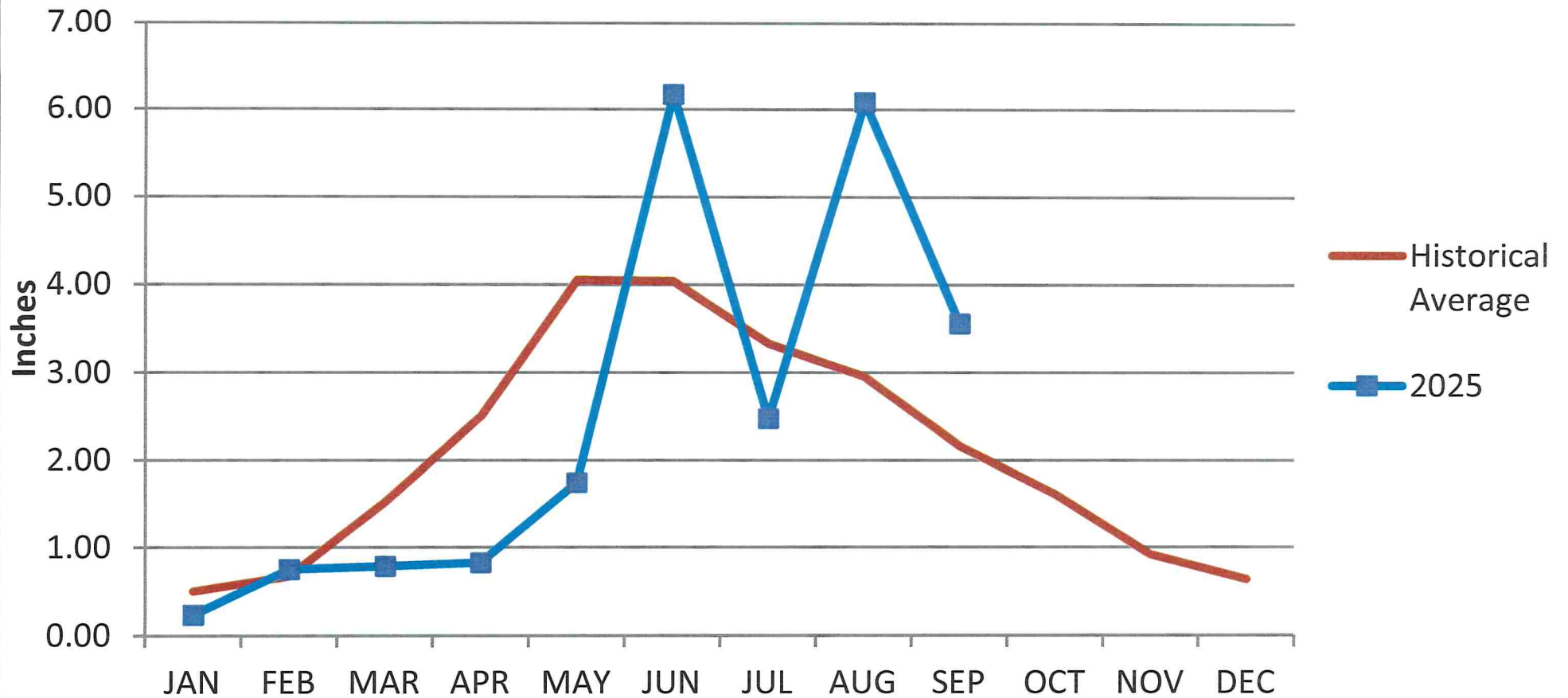


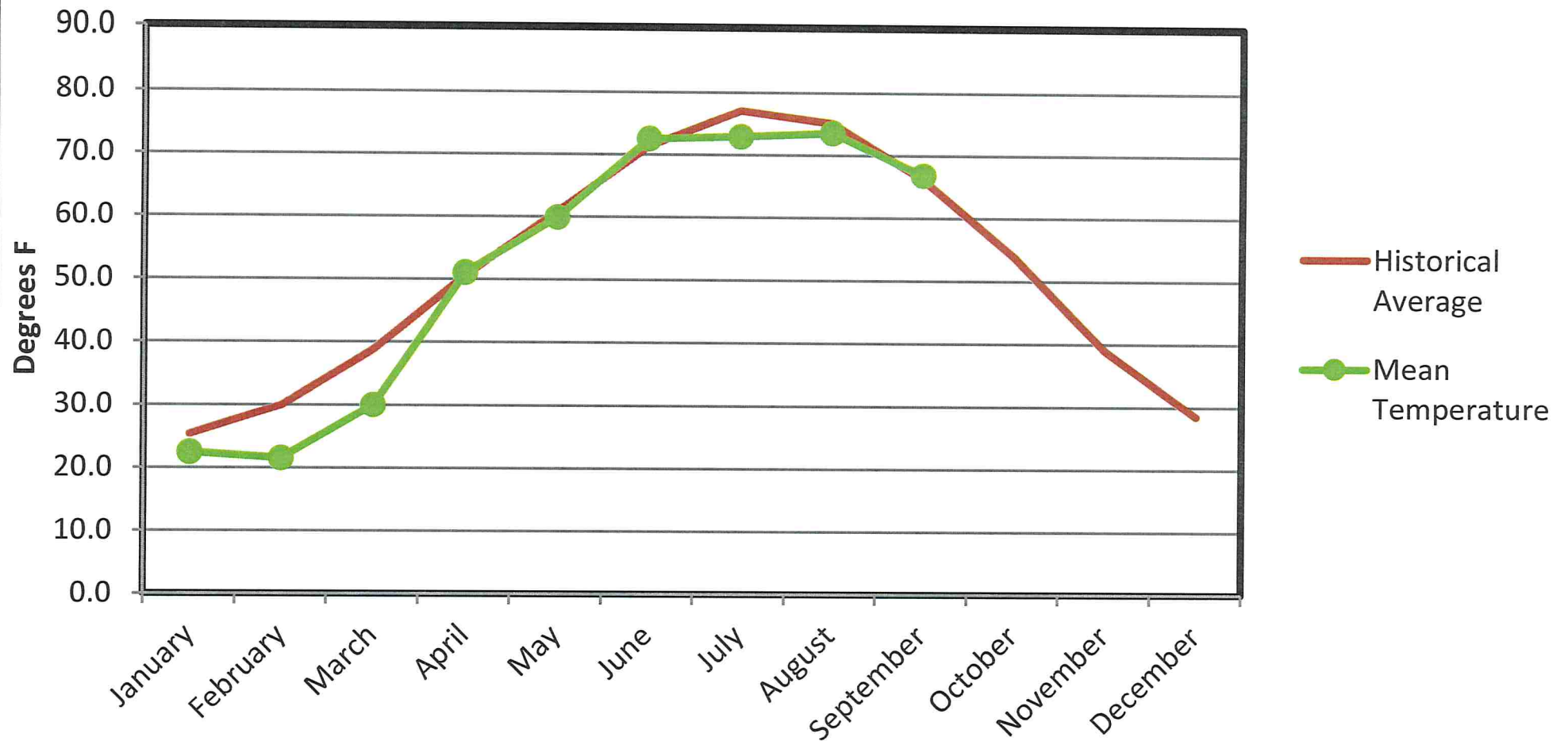
Tri-Basin NRD

Holdrege Monthly Precipitation - 2025



Tri-Basin NRD

Holdrege Monthly Mean Temperature - 2025



Tri-Basin NRD

1723 Burlington

Holdrege NF 68949



Phone: (308) 995-6688

Fax:

(308) 995-6992

Email:

tribasin@tribasininrd.org

Natural Resources District

September 2025 - Holdrege

Temperature: (°F)

* High: 96° (Recorded September 5)

* Low: 42° (Recorded September 7 & 8)

* Mean: 66.8° (Normal for September 66.5°)

Mean High: 78.8° (Normal: 80.2°)

Mean Low: 54.8° (Normal: 52.6°)

NOTES:

Precipitation for September 2025: 3.56"

(Normal for September: 2.24")

Precipitation for the year through September: 24.17"

(Normal for the year through September: 21.09")

NOTES: Rain noted 7 days
Thunder noted 2 days
Fog noted 1 day

September 2024

Temperature:

High: 99°

Low: 40°

Mean: 67.4°

Precipitation:

For the month: .18"

For the year: 23.14"

SEP 12 2023

(US-5)

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

STATE NE		COUNTY Phelps		RIVER	
TIME (local) OF OBSERVATION RIVER		TEMPERATURE 08:00	PRECIPITATION 08:00	STANDARD TIME IN USE	
TYPE OF RIVER GAGE		ELEVATION OF RIVER GAGE ZERO	FLOOD STAGE	NORMAL POOL STAGE	

RECORD OF RIVER AND CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

DATE	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			WEATHER (Observation Day)						RIVER STAGE			REMARKS (SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS, ETC.)								
	24 HRS ENDING AT OBSERVATION		AT OBSN	24-HR AMOUNTS		AT OB	Mark 'X' for all types occurring each day						Time of occurrence if different from above	Condition	Gage reading at ____ AM		Tendency							
	MAX	MIN		Rain, melted snow, etc. (in and hundredths)	Snow, ice pellets, hail (in and tenths)		Draw a straight line (—) through hours precipitation was observed, and a wavy line (~~~~) through hours precipitation probably occurred unobserved																	
							A.M.			NOON								P.M.						
1	76	59	60	0.00	0.0	0																		
2	73	60	60	0.00	0.0	0																		
3	79	56	57	0.00	0.0	0																		
4	80	49	51	0.00	0.0	0																		
5	76	51	54	0.00	0.0	0																		
6	66	44	49	0.00	0.0	0																		
7	73	42	50	0.00	0.0	0																		
8	77	50	59	0.00	0.0	0																		
9	73	56	57	0.00	0.0	0																		
10	80	57	61	0.00	0.0	0														Heavy fog				
11	84	61	62	0.00	0.0	0																		
12	84	62	66	0.00	0.0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
13	96	66	67	0.00	0.0	0																		
14	88	63	65	0.05	0.0	0																		
15	80	54	57	0.90	0.0	0	~																	
16	84	57	63	0.00	0.0	0																		
17	87	59	59	1.45	0.0	0	~	~	~	~	~													
18	74	57	58	0.12	0.0	0		~	~	~	~													
19	70	48	52	0.23																				
20	70	50	50	0.00	0.0	0																		
21	76	49	59	0.00	0.0	0																		
22	80	59	63	0.00	0.0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
23	84	62	62	0.57	0.0	0				~	~	~	~	~	~	~								
24	65	52	53	0.24	0.0	0																		
25	77	51	52	0.00	0.0	0																		
26	82	52	61	0.00	0.0	0																		
27	82	54	54	0.00	0.0	0																		
28	80	53	55	0.00	0.0	0																		
29	87	53	59	0.00	0.0	0																		
30	82	59	62	0.00	0.0	0																		
31																								
	78.8	54.8	SUM	3.56			CHECK BAR (for wire weight) NORMAL CHECK BAR																	
CONDITION OF RIVER AT GAGE				READING		DATE		OBSERVER													SUPERVISING OFFICE		STATION INDEX NO.	
A. Obstructed by rough ice B. Frozen, but open at gage C. Upper surface smooth ice D. Ice gorge above gage				E. Ice gorge below gage F. Shore ice G. Floating ice H. Pool stage				GID Hastings													25-3910-08			

High
96°

noon
High
78.8°

noon
66.8°

noon
Low
54.8°

Low
42°

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

TIME (local) OF OBSERVATION RIVER

TEMPERATURE
08:00

PRECIPITATION
08:00

STANDARD TIME IN USE

TYPE OF RIVER GAGE

ELEVATION OF RIVER
GAGE ZERO

FLOOD STAGE

NORMAL POOL STAGE

RECORD OF RIVER AND CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

DATE	TEMPERATURE		AT OBSN	24 HR AMOUNTS			PRECIPITATION																						WEATHER (Observation Day)						RIVER STAGE			REMARKS (SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS, ETC.)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
	24 HRS ENDING AT OBSERVATION			Rain, melted snow, etc. (in and hundredths)	Snow, ice pellets, hail (ins. and tenths)	Snow, ice pellets, hail ice on ground (in)	Draw a straight line (—) through hours precipitation was observed, and a wavy line (~~~~) through hours precipitation probably occurred unobserved																						Mark 'X' for all types occurring each day						Time of occurrence if different from above	Condition	Gage reading at ____ AM		Tendency																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
	MAX	MIN					A.M.											NOON					P.M.						Fog	Ice pellets	Glaze	Thunder	Hail	Damaging winds																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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SUM2.62

CHECK BAR (for wire weight) NORMAL CHECK BAR

CONDITION OF RIVER AT GAGE

READING

DATE

Observer

Supervising Office
GID Hastings

Station Index No.
25-2690-08

Third Quarter 2025 Overton Stream Gauge Data

	July Act	July Tar	Well Run	Aug Act	Aug Tar	Well Run	Sept Act	Sept Tar	Well Run
1	1710	800		687	800		1870	800	
2	1640	800		1670	800		1780	800	
3	892	800		1430	800		1790	800	
4	M	800		1260	800		1790	800	
5	M	800		609	800		359	800	
6	M	800		49.5	800		1720	800	
7	M	800		128	800		751	800	
8	M	800		132	800		315	800	
9	M	800		118	800		1870	800	
10	M	800		123	800		1940	800	
11	M	800		194	800		1940	800	
12	M	800		167	800		1890	800	
13	M	800		709	800		1910	800	
14	M	800		693	800		1790	800	
15	M	800		1400	800		2030	800	
16	929	800		148	800		1890	600	
17	904	800		110	800		665	600	
18	904	800		91.3	800		382	600	
19	879	800		105	800		420	600	
20	892	800		83.1	800		395	600	
21	929	800	M		800		460	600	
22	965	800	M		800		503	600	
23	769	800	M		800		580	600	
24	703	800	M		800		539	600	
25	257	800	M		800		195	600	
26	474	800	M		800		124	600	
27	326	800		128	800		111	600	
28	831	800		248	800		314	600	
29	191	800		157	800		109	600	
30	609	800		1360	800		107	600	
31	867	800		1910	800				

Third Quarter 2025 Grand Island Stream Gauge Data

	July Act	July Tar	Well Run	Aug Act	Aug Tar	Well Run	Sept Act	Sept Tar	Well Run
1	2860	800		551	800		212	800	
2	1970	800		516	800		533	800	
3	1360	800		450	800		711	800	
4	M	800		1010	800		829	800	
5	M	800		771	800		829	800	
6	M	800		660	800		867	800	
7	M	800		587	800		378	800	
8	M	800		435	800		606	800	
9	M	800		390	800		625	800	
10	M	800		362	800		551	800	
11	M	800		362	800		790	800	
12	M	800		390	800		848	800	
13	M	800		405	800		848	800	
14	M	800		376	800		829	800	
15	M	800		310	800		1300	800	
16	678	800		298	800		1680	600	
17	1200	800		264	800		1070	600	
18	1070	800		362	800		1430	600	
19	989	800		286	800		887	600	
20	927	800		232	800		587	600	
21	733	800		221	800		482	600	
22	600	800		175	800		435	600	
23	606	800		M	800		375	600	
24	714	800		M	800		362	600	
25	696	800		M	800		335	600	
26	733	800		M	800		298	600	
27	625	800		351	800		286	600	
28	482	800		35.1	800		252	600	
29	405	800		25.6	800		221	600	
30	420	800		48.7	800		211	600	
31	569	800		115	800				

July 7, 2025

State of Nebraska
Dept of Water, Energy, and Environment
Jennifer Schellpeper
245 Fallbrook Blvd., Suite 201
Lincoln, NE 68521

Central Platte Natural Resources District
Lyndon Vogt
215 Kaufman Ave
Grand Island, NE 68803-4915

North Platte Natural Resources District
Scott Schaneman
100547 Airport Rd, PO Box 280
Scottsbluff, NE 69363-280

South Platte Natural Resources District
Galen Wittrock
551 Parkland Dr, PO Box 294
Sidney, NE 69162-0294

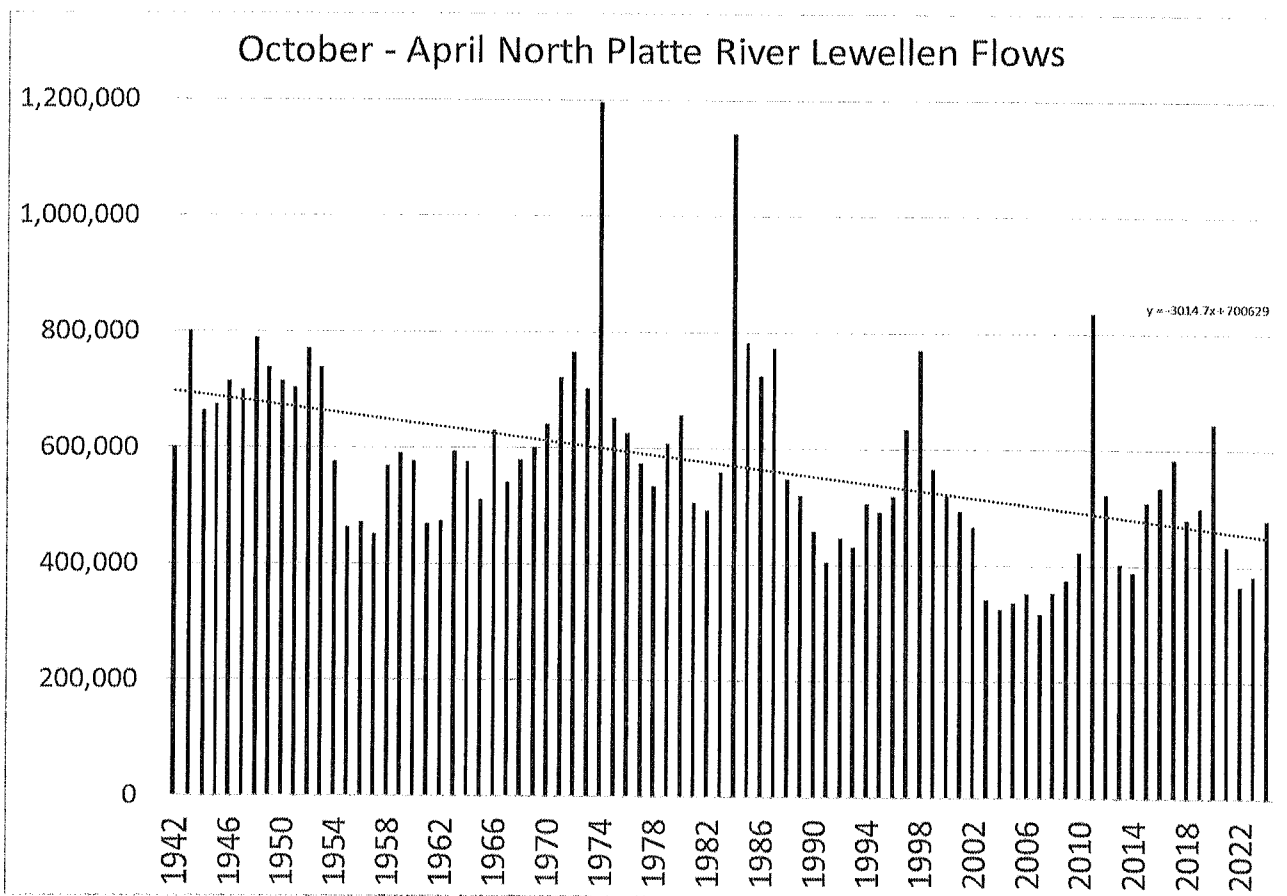
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
John Thorburn
1723 Burlington St
Holdrege, NE 68949

Twin Platte Natural Resources District
Kent Miller
3021 E Philip Ave, PO Box 1347
North Platte, NE 69103-1347

Subject: Annual Meeting of the Platte Basin Coalition
 Request for Revisions to the Second Increment Upper Platte Basin-Wide Plan

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (Central) hereby submit this letter in accordance with the public notice of the Upper Platte Basin-Wide Plan annual meeting. We are providing this letter and proposing revisions to the Basin-Wide Plan as provided in the notice, and we look forward to the opportunity for further input at the upcoming meeting.

NPPD and Central are both highly reliant on water supplies from the North Platte River. Lake McConaughy, operated by Central, provides drought protection for numerous uses between Keystone and Kearney, including irrigation of more than 150,000 acres and cooling water for Nebraska's largest power plant. However, winter inflows to Lake McConaughy (October through April), which are essential for refilling the reservoir, have declined significantly over time (see graph). Between 1942 and 1953, winter inflows never fell below 600,000 acre-feet. Since 1987, there have been only four years in which winter inflows exceeded 600,000 acre-feet. In recent years, downstream demands often exceed the available winter inflows, posing challenges to both irrigation and power generation.



It is in this context that NPPD and Central have significant concerns regarding the North Platte Natural Resources District's (NPNRD) adoption of a "Pilot Study" to increase groundwater pumping allocations in the Pumpkin Creek basin. The pilot study, as codified in NPNRD Rules and Regulations dated December 14, 2024, Chapter 5, Rules 2.1 and 2.2, would increase the allocation from 60 acre-inches over five years (12 acre-inches per year) to 70 acre-inches over five years (14 acre-inches per year). Prior to implementation of pumping allocations, irrigation wells in the Pumpkin Creek basin had caused the creek to cease flowing entirely, adversely affecting water supplies for both local and downstream surface water appropriators. The establishment of pumping allocations and integrated management plans helped restore at least some flow to Pumpkin Creek and partially mitigated these impacts.

Increasing the pumping allocation under the pilot study threatens to reverse that progress. As noted in the Integrated Management Plan jointly developed and approved by NPNRD and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the existing allocations were determined to represent a deficit level of irrigation intended to reduce consumptive use. It follows that increasing the allocation would increase consumption, leading to greater streamflow depletions and harm to downstream appropriators. Such increases would be contrary to Objective 1.1 and Action Item

1.1.1 of the Second Increment Upper Platte Basin-Wide Plan, which require maintaining previous increment mitigation progress and keeping policies, projects, and practices in place to prevent increases in depletions. The proposed increase also conflicts with Objective 1.2 of the North Platte NRD IMP, which commits to maintaining current levels of accretions to the Platte River and offsetting any additional impacts.

NPPD and Central are not opposed to pilot studies in concept. However, we believe such studies should be clearly defined and conducted in a manner that does not run contrary to the plan directives of maintaining current levels of accretions. Accordingly, we make the following recommendations to amend the plans:

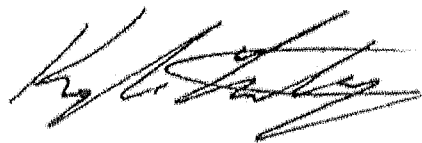
- **Amend the Basin-Wide Plan through a stakeholder process to include provisions allowing signatories to implement pilot studies in their local Integrated Management Plans, provided that any such study includes a clear hypothesis, clear objectives, robust monitoring protocols, methods for determining impacts to existing water users, criteria for evaluating success, and clear measures for offsetting any detrimental impacts to existing water users that may occur.**
- **Amend the North Platte NRD Integrated Management Plan through a stakeholder process to codify the Pumpkin Creek Management Area Pilot Study with the same safeguards, including development of a clear hypothesis, objectives, monitoring requirements, impact analysis methods, evaluation criteria, and measures for mitigating any adverse effects on existing water users.**

NPPD and Central appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure sustainable management of the Platte River Basin's water resources.

Sincerely,

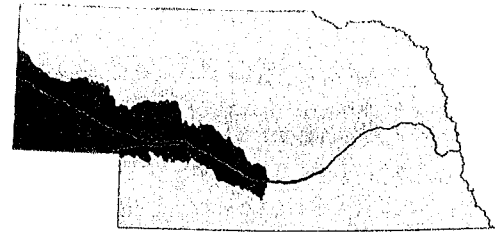


Devin Brundage
General Manager
CNPPID



Kyle Liebig
Water Resources Manager
NPPD

Platte Overappropriated Area Committee



October 14, 2025

Devin Brundage

General Manager, CNPPID

Kyle Liebig

Water Resources Manager, NPPD

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your July 7, 2025, letter identifying issues related to implementation of the Second Increment Basin-Wide Plan (BWP) for the overappropriated portion of the Platte River Basin which you presented at the 2025 Annual Basin-Wide Meeting in Holdrege.

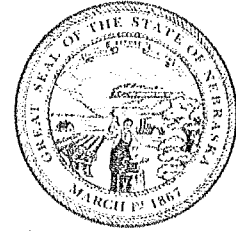
The Platte Overappropriated Area Committee (POAC), which includes the five Upper Platte Basin NRDs (Central Platte NRD, North Platte NRD, South Platte NRD, Tri-Basin NRD, and Twin Platte NRD) and the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (Department) have reviewed your letter and identified two main points of concern. As we understand it, Your first point is apparently that North Platte NRD's (NPNRD's) Pumpkin Creek pilot study conflicts with the goals of the Basin-Wide Plan and North Platte NRD IMP; your second point is that you believe that the Basin-Wide Plan should clearly define provisions or expectations for NRDs that wish to implement pilot studies through their IMPs.

The 2023 Robust Review of implementation of Upper Platte Basin IMPs indicates that all five Upper Platte Basin NRDs currently meet and will continue to meet their post-1997 offset requirements throughout this planning increment. The Department and Upper Platte Basin NRDs anticipate reviewing and updating each NRD's IMP and the BWP as needed to incorporate the 2023 Robust Review results and adjust goal language accordingly. Each NRD will continue to initiate and maintain projects, programs, and policies which produce depletion offsets in times and amounts equivalent to offsets identified in the 2023 Robust Review. Both the upper Platte IMPs and BWP address how new management actions are evaluated by the NRDs and the DWEE. Changes to projects, programs, or policy, such as the pilot project being pursued by the NPNRD, will be evaluated for any potential impact on an NRD's ability to maintain compliance with the various goals and objectives in their IMPs.

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Resources.

DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT



Jim Pillen, Governor

September 9, 2025

Tanner Nelson
Riverview Feeders, LLC
10520 741 Road
Bertrand, NE 68927

RE: Riverview Feeders, LLC Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
NDEE ID: 74279
Program ID: NEG020122
Subject: **NPDES General Permit for Operations Confining Cattle**
Permit Coverage Application No. NEG020122
SE 1/4, Section 14, Township 08N, Range 20W, Phelps County
Consultant: Settje Agri-Services and Engineering, Inc.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (Department) hereby issues coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) Confining Cattle (NEG020000) to your operation. This General Permit became effective April 1, 2025 and will expire on March 31, 2030. It may be modified or reissued to reflect regulatory changes. This permit supersedes the NPDES permit issued July 16, 2025.

Coverage under this NPDES General Permit is for the number of livestock waste control facilities (LWCF) and the number of livestock listed below:

Type of LWCF	No. Each Type
Holding Pond	2
Debris Basin	2

Species	Number of Head
Feeder Cattle	5,000

Open Lot Area: 41.0 acres

Total Drainage Area: 52.5 acres

Your CAFO shall be operated and maintained according to the approved application, this NPDES General Permit, the site-specific permit terms in Attachment 1 to this letter and the requirements in Title 130, *Livestock Waste Control Regulations*. Please review this permit carefully as you are responsible for your operation's compliance with all permit requirements. Copies of the General Permit and of your Request for Coverage are enclosed for your records. A copy of both documents must be kept on-site at your operation.

This General Permit contains specific recordkeeping, monitoring, operating, maintenance and inspection requirements. Department staff will conduct periodic inspections of your operation to review compliance with permit conditions.

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (PRRIP -or- Program)****Land Advisory Committee (LAC) Quarterly Meeting**Wednesday, October 15th, 2025

PRRIP Conference Room – 4111 4th Avenue, Suite 6 Kearney, NE 68845

Dave Zorn, Central NE Public Power & Irrigation District – 2024 LAC Chair

Jason Farnsworth, Executive Director (ED) – Moderator

Attendees – Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado Water Users, Upper Platte Water Users, Downstream Water Users, Environmental Entities, Executive Director's Office (EDO)

October 15, 2025 (2 hours) LOCAL MEETING TIMES Nebraska: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM CDT Wyoming: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM MDT Colorado: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM MDT * See calendar invite for Microsoft Teams meeting link (audio & video)		CENTRAL TIME START (DURATION)	ITEM LEAD	MEETING DOCUMENTS
#1	WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE			
Introductions – in-person & virtual attendees		9:00 AM (:10)	Dave Zorn	n/a
Agenda - modifications				01 - Agenda
#2	COMMITTEE UPDATES			
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)		9:10 AM (:15)	Matt Rabbe	n/a
Water Advisory Committee (WAC)			Jason Farnsworth	n/a
Governance Committee (GC)			Jason Farnsworth	n/a
#3	FY 2025 LAND PLAN BUDGET OVERVIEW			
Information and discussion: Motion to recommend GC approval of 2026 Land Plan Budget		9:25 AM (:20)	Tim Tunnell Jason Farnsworth	02 – Land Budget & Work Plan
#4	EXECUTIVE SESSION			
Motion to go into Executive Session Information and discussion: Motion to come out of Executive Session Recommendations on Land Offerings, etc.		10:05 AM (:15)	Dave Zorn Tim Tunnell Jason Farnsworth	n/a
#5	REORGANIZATION OF OFFICERS			
Information and discussion, and action Discuss process and action:		10:20 PM (:15)	Dave Zorn	n/a



October 15, 2025 (2 hours) LOCAL MEETING TIMES Nebraska: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM CDT Wyoming: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM MDT Colorado: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM MDT <i>* See calendar invite for Microsoft Teams meeting link (audio & video)</i>		CENTRAL TIME START (DURATION)	ITEM LEAD	MEETING DOCUMENTS
MOTION TO RECOMMEND _____ AS LAC CHAIR. MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND PASS A UNANAMOUS VOTE FOR _____ AS LAC CHAIR. MOTION TO RECOMMEND _____ AS LAC VICE CHAIR. MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND PASS A UNANAMOUS VOTE FOR _____ AS LAC VICE CHAIR.				
#6	FY2026 SUGGESTED LAC MEETING DATES			
February 11, 2026 - 9:00- 11:00 CDT May 13, 2026 - 9:00- 11:00 CDT August 12, 2026 - 9:00- 11:00 CDT October 14, 2026 - 9:00- 11:00 CDT		10:35 AM (:05)	Tim Tunnell	n/a
#7	PUBLIC COMMENT			
Opportunity for members of the public to comment on PRRIP activities		10:40 AM (:05)	Dave Zorn	n/a
#8	MEETING REVIEW & WRAP-UP			
MEETING END		10:45 AM		

Agenda

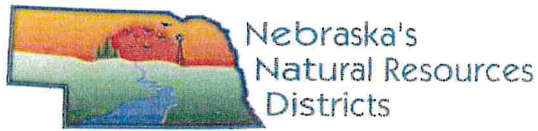
Governor's Water Quality and Quantity Task Force

September 24, 2025

Younes Conference Center North (707 W. Talmadge St, Kearney, NE 68845)

1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. (Central)

- 1. Open Meetings Act Information**
- 2. Approval of minutes from 6/2/2025**
- 3. Presentations**
 - A. Producer Connect**
 - B. Nitrogen Use Efficiency Dashboard**
- 4. Subcommittee Updates**
 - A. Financing and Incentives Committee**
 - B. Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access Committee**
 - C. Water Conservation and Quantity Committee**
 - D. Methods and Resources Committee**
- 5. Scheduling and Logistics**
 - A. Next Task Force Meeting: December 16, 2025**
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Adjourn**



TO: NARD Board & NRD Managers
FROM: Dean Edson, Executive Director
RE: ONE RED Grant
Date: September 26, 2025

Nebraska ONE RED Grant Summary

The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) has been awarded a \$307 million federal grant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants across Nebraska. The program aims to strengthen the state's economy—particularly in agriculture, energy, and rural/underserved communities—through voluntary programs and financial assistance.

Of this funding, \$160 million is earmarked for agriculture, with a key focus on developing a Carbon Registry. DWEE has approached NARD to serve as the contracting entity for the agreements necessary to build and manage this registry.

Carbon Registry

- DWEE will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop a registry platform.
- The platform will house carbon intensity (CI) scores, provide grant program details, and distribute incentive payments to producers implementing qualifying practices.
- DWEE and NARD would jointly select the contractor, with NARD entering into the contract and managing development in collaboration with DWEE.
- Additionally, the registry will generate the reports needed for DWEE to meet its EPA grant reporting requirements.

Third-Party Vendors

- DWEE will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for third-party vendors to calculate CI scores.
- These vendors will submit producer CI scores and documentation into the Carbon Registry.
- There is no cap on the number of qualified vendors.

Producer Connect Integration

- To streamline data collection, DWEE has offered to cover development costs for adapting Producer Connect to gather the information needed for CI scoring.
- Longitude 103 has been provided a scope of work and asked to submit a bid for this effort.
- Producer Connect will calculate CI scores, which would make Longitude 103 an approved third-party vendor under the program.

Role of NARD

DWEE has proposed working with NARD to oversee and manage contracts tied to the Carbon Registry, third-party vendor process, and Producer Connect integration.

Attached is a more comprehensive document from the DWEE ONE RED workplan that outlines the "Measures to Reduce Emissions in Agriculture Production" and more specifics on the responsibilities of the subrecipient. This is being referred to the NRD Managers Partnership Committee to review and provide NARD with a recommendation on how to proceed.

Republican Basin: Compact Call Years and Water-Short Years

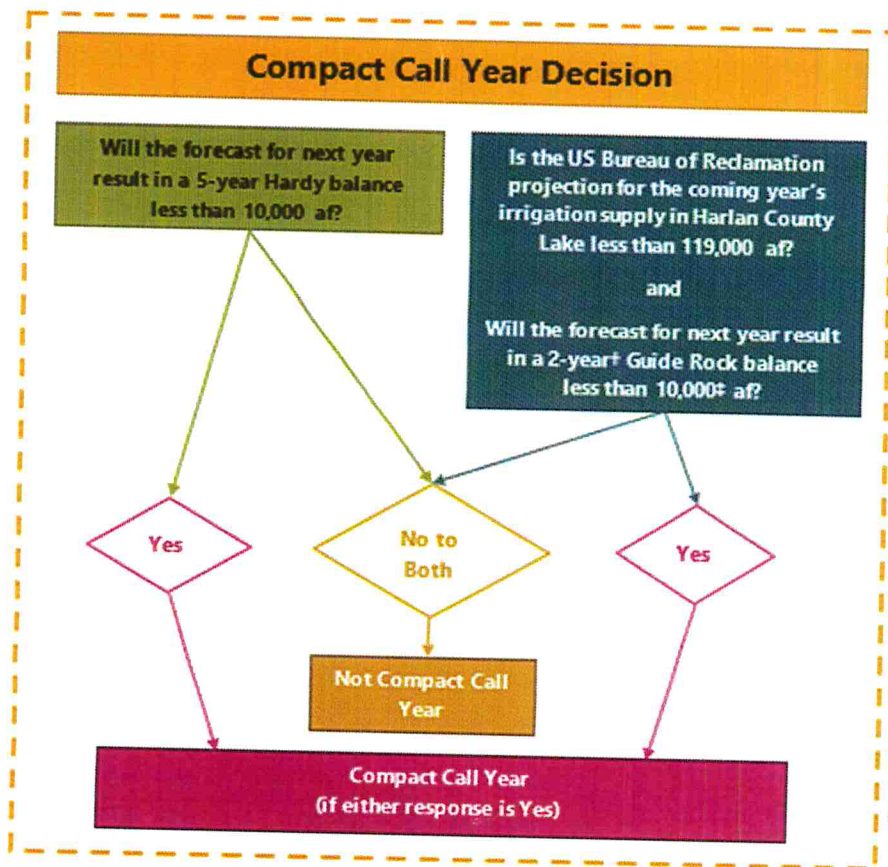


Figure 1. Compact Call Year Decision

What is a Compact Call Year?

A Compact Call Year (CCY) is a year in which the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's (DWEE) Forecast of Allowable Depletions (Forecast) indicates Nebraska may not be in compliance with the Republican River Compact (Compact) unless additional management actions are taken. Forecast procedures are in the *Monitoring & Studies Technical Memorandum for the URNRD, MRNRD, and LRNRD IMPs (Memorandum)*. The CCY decision-making procedure is illustrated in Figure 1.

In a CCY, Nebraska may need to take additional action to meet its Compact obligations by reducing consumption and/or generating additional streamflow. This occurs through regulatory or non-regulatory actions; possible groundwater management actions are outlined in the DWEE and NRDs' Integrated Management Plans (IMPs). For groundwater, the NRDs may need to establish more restrictive, temporary allocations and curtail groundwater pumping in the Basin. For surface water, DWEE may need to regulate and administer surface water in the Basin.

A Compact Call Year will be triggered if:

1. The 5-year forecast for the balance at Hardy is less than 10,000 acre-feet, **AND/OR**
2. The projected irrigation supply in Harlan County Lake is less than 119,000 AF **AND** the 2-year† forecast for the balance at Guide Rock is less than 10,000‡ acre-feet. [†If an Alternative Water-Short Year Plan has been approved by the RRCA, then substitute "3-year" for "2-year" in the Guide Rock test. ‡In the second consecutive Compact Call Year, the 10,000 acre-feet threshold for the Guide Rock test will be reduced to 5,000 acre-feet. For the third and subsequent consecutive Compact Call Years, this value will be reduced to **zero**.]

What is Water-Short Year Administration?

Water-Short Year (WSY) Administration occurs in a year in which the projected or actual irrigation water supply in Harlan County Lake is **less than 119,000** acre-feet. The projected irrigation water supply is calculated by the US Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) using methodology described in the *Harlan County Lake Operation Consensus Plan*, one of the documents approved by the US Supreme Court for management of the Republican River Basin. The final Water-Short Year calculation is done in July, using data collected from January through June of that year. The Bureau provides the three Compact states (Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska) with monthly updates of the projected or actual irrigation supply from Harlan County Lake.

Republican Basin: Compact Call Years and Water-Short Years

Water-Short Year Administration and Compact Call Years

Nebraska has certain requirements during Water Short Year Administration, including additional limitations on the consumptive uses above Guide Rock. The Compact states resolved that if Nebraska has designated the year a Compact Call Year and if, on or by June 30, either:

- The sum of total irrigation supply in Harlan County Lake and any carry-over water (referred to as Remaining Compact Compliance Volume) is **greater than or equal to 119,000 AF**, OR
- Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District's (KBID) total irrigation supply in Harlan County Lake is **greater than or equal to 68,000 AF**,

then there will be no additional limitations on Nebraska's consumptive uses above Guide Rock. In these cases, the Water-Short Year Administration may stand, but Nebraska's compliance is **not** measured by the 2-year balance above Guide Rock. Table 1 provides some example situations showing the relationship between Water-Short Year Administration, Compact Call Years, and the applicability of the 2-year above Guide Rock balance.

Table 1. Example situations demonstrating the relationships between Water-Short Year Administration, Compact Call Years, and the 2-year above Guide Rock balance for Compact compliance.

Total irrigation supply in Harlan County Lake (AF)	Water Short Year Administration	Compact Call Year	KBID supply in Harlan County Lake (AF)	2-year Guide Rock Compliance Balance applicable
119,000	No	Yes	N/A	No
119,000	No	No	N/A	No
110,000	Yes	Yes	68,000	No
110,000	Yes	No	68,000	Yes
110,000	Yes	Yes	60,000	Yes
110,000	Yes	No	60,000	Yes

If you have questions about the Compact Call Year process, please contact Sam Capps, DWEE, at 402-471-0376.

Timeline During Compact Call Years and/or Water-Short Years (WSY):

- December-March:** DWEE notifies the NRDs in writing that the following year will be a Compact Call Year. NRDs notify DWEE in writing about planned management actions. DWEE provides a written assessment of the NRDs' planned management actions.
- April (WSY):** DWEE notifies Colorado, Kansas, and relevant federal agencies in writing about preliminary management actions and the anticipated water yield.
- May:** DWEE begins providing monthly accounting estimates to the NRDs, Kansas, Colorado, and the Bureau. Monthly estimates continue through December.
- May 31 (if also following a Compact Call Year):** Nebraska makes good faith efforts to ensure that management actions to supply water to KBID in Harlan County Lake as identified by October of the preceding Compact Call Year are completed.
- June (WSY):** DWEE notifies Colorado, Kansas, and relevant federal agencies in writing about preliminary management actions and the anticipated water yield.
- June 30:** Bureau finalizes Water-Short Year Administration designation.
- Prior to October 1:** Nebraska and Kansas review accounting; Kansas can request remaining Compact compliance volume (RCCV).
- September-October:** DWEE notifies the NRDs in writing about the assessment of NRD management actions and identifies specific additional management actions that are required by each NRD.



ON NEBRASKA'S PLATTE RIVER, A MIGRATORY BIRD OASIS IS CAUGHT UP IN A WATER RIGHTS FIGHT

By Jessica Leber, Audubon Magazine Deputy Editor

On the central Platte River in Nebraska, every water drop has a purpose. Some generate electricity, irrigate farms, or meet demands downstream. Others ensure that Whooping Cranes have the habitat the Endangered Species Act requires. Often there aren't enough drops to fulfill all legal water rights in the heavily managed river valley.

But even overburdened rivers sometimes see seasonal floods or heavy rains, and water managers outside the Platte basin are seeking a share when that happens: They propose to divert water from the river during flush times and pipe some "excess" south to the Republican River basin, where the flow could help farmers irrigate crops and fulfill Nebraska's obligations under a water-sharing deal with Kansas. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is now weighing the plan.

Conservationists acknowledge both rivers are overtaxed, but argue that taking water from one basin to supply another is a misguided idea that sets an alarming precedent in the state. At least 70 percent of the volume that once historically flowed through the region is already diverted before reaching Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary, which lies along an 80-mile stretch of river habitat where more than a million migrating Sandhill Cranes rest and refuel. "What we're trying to hold on to is the last 30 percent," says Melissa Mosier, Platte River program manager for Audubon Great Plains. "Any amount of water that comes out of that is a pretty big deal."

While periodic surges don't legally fall within a complicated system of Platte River water rights, experts say they play a key role in sustaining the hydrology and ecology that migratory birds have relied upon for millennia. "Those high flows are important because that's how the system historically functioned," says Abraham Kanz, conservation research director for the Crane Trust.



Melissa Mosier, Audubon Platte River program manager, in North Platte, Nebraska. Photo: Sydney Walsh/Audubon

These influxes recharge wet meadows where cranes forage and refill underground aquifers that people rely upon. What's more, by shifting around sediment and scouring away tree seedlings, large water pulses also help maintain the wide, braided channels and sandbars that birds use to roost or nest.

In public comments last year, conservationists opposed to the idea were joined by local tourism offices and several natural resource and public power districts that rely on the Platte. Even the state of Kansas objected, fearing the spread of invasive carp. Project supporters in the Republican River basin, however, argued the diversion would make use of water that otherwise wouldn't benefit Nebraskans. To Mosier, it's this narrow vision of water as a commodity that keeps the central Platte ecosystem—which attracts thousands of spring visitors and where Rowe Sanctuary recently marked its 50th anniversary—just "hanging on." After big floods, Kanz has seen how a streamflow surge can help struggling habitat. "These sites can recover, and we have proof you can bring them back," he says.

Farmers seek soybeans buyers, not bail out, Nebraska leaders say

Mike Konz, Kearney Hub

10/11/2025

Storage issues, volatile trade, quicky weather and reduced profitability are among the challenges Nebraska grain producers are facing this fall.

As farmers in Nebraska and its neighboring states bring in what appears to be a banner 2025 corn and soybean harvest, many still have unresolved questions that boil down to reining in risk and containing losses.

Markets for soybeans currently are below cost of production. A key reason for the weak market is the loss of China as a trade partner. China's imports in the past comprised about 30% of U. S. sales, but that volume is gone, leaving farmers to scramble to find storage for beans until markets improve.

Sizing up the peculiarity and unusual combination of circumstances that are the trademark of the 2025 harvest, some farmers are left asking themselves, "Why didn't we see this coming?"

Here are some of the challenges dogging farmers:

- Near records yields with profits erased by escalating costs.
- The loss of long-term grain customer China. That nation has purchased less than half of its normal volume of soybeans.
- Unstable weather, botched trade deals and high input costs. Ag industry observers said farmers are bracing for rough year, and some are talking about the possibility of an Uncle Sam bailout.
- Amherst farmer Paul Kenney, chairman of KAAPA ethanol Holdings, LLC, said the current glut of soybeans provides an opportunity to process more soybeans in areas where they are grown. The processed beans provide high protein feed, Kenney said, and add value to the soybean crop.
- "People need to start buying more soybeans," Kenney said.

He said processing plants recently opened in David City, and Sioux City, Iowa, adding more processing plants already operating in Fremont, Lincoln and Hastings.

With China refusing to buy soybeans at volume levels of the past, many farmers will struggle to make ends meet this year.

According to the American Farm Bureau, only about 25% of the volume of soybeans as been shipped from the U.S. to China this year.

Specifically, that's only 18 million bushels of soybeans going to China compared to 98 million bushels last year.

Nebraska Farm Bureau President Mark McHargue said market react when a big trader like China turns off the spigot.

"They bought zero soybeans from us this year, to my understanding. And so they were one of our largest customers. And so it's significant.

It's really significant," McHargue said.

U.S. - China trade relations appear to have entered downward trend as China shifts to Argentina and Brazil to supply the beans it will need, leaving U.S farmers with a glut.

McHargue said he agrees with the Trump administration's long-term strategy , even though it falls short of addressing short-term challenges.

U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts also believes Trump is going in the right direction long term. Ricketts said in a news conference Wednesday that ramping up ethanol sales would benefit U.S. grain producers.

"If we could find trade partners who are willing to take more of our biodiesel, or renewable diesel even, if we can find them, and they buy more of our soybeans or anything like that, that would be helpful," Ricketts said.

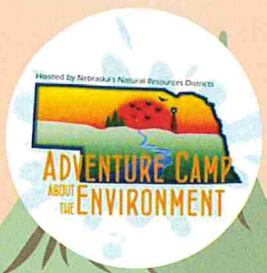
Until tariff-induced trade losses turn around, corn and soybeans will have bailouts on their mind.

In response to the tariff fallout, some farmers believe Uncle Sam should provide a stopgap so producers can keep current with their bills.

McHargue said some discussions with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins have focused on federal assistance.

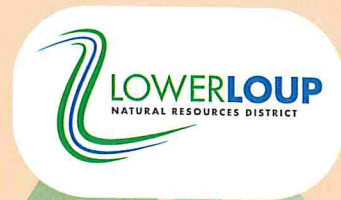
Trump allocated \$28 billion during his first term for farm aid and has suggested tapping funds to pay for a bailout to help farmers with their current problems.

“I can tell you that our farmers would prefer to have trade and to have uses for their products, rather than receiving aid from the federal government,” Ricketts said.



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